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BILLESDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1937.

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BILLESDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1937.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure to present my thirty-sixth Annual Report on the Health of your District.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Approximate area (in acres)	49,628
Population Census 1921	7,283
Population Census 1931	11,073
Estimated resident population 1936	6,199
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1936) ..	2,011
Rateable value	£29,355
Sum represented by a penny rate	£112

Social Conditions.

The District is essentially agricultural, most of the land being grazed.

Save in the Parishes near Leicester which are largely residential in character and which have rapidly developed, the population has been declining or stationary for many years. The reduced population since the last Census is due to the extension of the City of Leicester in 1935.

Vital Statistics.

Births, legitimate	M. 52	F. 34	Total	86
" illegitimate	M. 1	F. 4	Total	5
	53	38		91

Still-births .. .. .. legitimate	2
Birth-rate	14·6
Birth-rate for England & Wales	14·9

Deaths:	Males 46.	Females 36.	Total 82

Crude Death-rate	13·2
Comparative Death-rate (allowing for age & sex distribution)	11·5
Death-rate for England & Wales	12·4
Deaths of Infants under one year of age - 5 (all legitimate)	
Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 births	55
Infant Mortality Rate for England & Wales	58

Causes of Death.

	Males.	Females.
All Causes.	46	36
Influenza	3	-
Respiratory tuberculosis	2	1
Other tuberculosis	1	-
Cancer	5	8
Diabetes	2	-
Cerebral haemorrhage etc.	6	2
Heart disease	11	9
Other circulatory diseases	2	2
Bronchitis	1	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	1	3
Other respiratory diseases	-	1
Peptic ulcer	1	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	-
Nephritis	1	1
Puerperal sepsis	-	-
Other puerperal causes	-	-
Congenital causes	3	1
Senility	2	-
Suicide	-	1
Other violence	2	-
Other defined causes	2	4
Ill-defined causes	-	-

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

The particulars furnished in previous Annual Reports are still applicable, no special alterations or developments having taken place during the year.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:-

The Medical Officer of Health acts for the Leicestershire & Rutland Combined Districts in which this District is included.

The Sanitary Inspector is also Surveyor and is a whole time officer.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water:-

The Leicester Corporation's water is laid on in parishes adjoining Leicester and in the village of Great Glen. A Contract has now been approved for Extension of Water Mains to Houghton-on-the-Hill and Billesdon.

Fourteen samples of well water were analysed during the year six proving unsuitable for drinking. Two wells were closed, 17 were cleansed or repaired and in 67 instances the public supply was laid on in lieu of well-water, the latter being at Great Glen.

Drainage & Sewerage:-

There have been no important extensions during the year. Seven cesspools were abolished.

Closet Accommodation:-

Approximate number in District	(1)	Privies	119
	(2)	Pail Closets	1,388
	(3)	Water Closets	409

Privies, Pail or Earth Closets:	No. converted to W.C's	-
Privies:	No. converted to pail or earth closets	24

Public Cleansing:-

The parishes of Thurnby, Scraptoft, Houghton, Hungarton and Stoughton, are now scavenged by direct labour, the refuse being disposed of by a well managed system of controlled tipping at a suitable site in the parish of Stoughton. There is also excellent provision for the emptying of cesspools, and night soil is disposed of by trenching in arable land.

Great Glen and Burton Overy are scavenged by contractors without suitable transport and without controlled tipping. It is far from satisfactory and I am of opinion that these and indeed all the larger villages should be included in the Council's scheme.

Sanitary Inspection:-

Total No. of premises visited	298
" " " complaints received for the year	31
" " " defects or nuisances discovered	27
" " " inspections made for all purposes	1,200
" " " notices served - Informal 29. Formal 3. Total	32
" " " defects remedied after service of notices	30
" " " summonses issued	Nil

Smoke Abatement:-

No nuisances have come under observation during the year.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-Laws and Regulations:-

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the District and there are no Offensive Trades. Four inspections of vans and sheds are recorded.

Eradication of Bed-bugs:-

No cases came under observation.

Swimming Baths and Pools:-

No. in District: Public, none. Private, one which is spring fed.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year:-

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ..	47
Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	74
(2) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	47
Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	74
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	3
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	44

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 13

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 10

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-

(a) By Owners 10

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners .. Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 1

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

(a) By Owners 1

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners .. Nil

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 3

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 3

4. Housing Act, 1935: Overcrowding.

(a) i. Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year 3

ii. Number of families dwelling therein 3

iii. Number of persons dwelling therein 14

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year None

(c) i. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 3

ii. Number of persons concerned in such cases .. 20

(d) Number of cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after Local Authority had taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding None

Number of houses erected during the year:-

By Local Authority 2

By other bodies or persons 103

INSPECTION and SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk:-

Retailers. No. on Register 58
Premises - Total No. of inspections 21

Producers: (including Producers who retail their own milk).

No. on Register 153
No. of inspections made 62

Contraventions:-	Found.	Remedied.
Cleansing	4	4
Structural alterations	3	3

No licences were granted by the District Council under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

There are about 1,500 Milch cows in the District.

Meat and other Foods:-

No. of public abattoirs in district .. .. None

Private Slaughter-houses:-	In January 1937.	In December 1937.
No. registered	2	2
No. licensed	3	3
No. of inspections of premises		24
No. of inspections of meat at time of slaughter		48

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Total Weight
Number inspected	14	-	-	11	67	-
All Diseases except Tuberculosis.						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	2	27	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	7%	-	-	20%	40%	-
Tuberculosis Only						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	1	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	1	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	1·5%	-

Meat Shops, Meat Stores etc.:-

No. of inspections 4

Places where food (other than meat) is kept or prepared for sale:-

No. of inspections 4

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The notified cases of Infectious Diseases were as follows:-

	Total Cases notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	3	3	-
Scarlet fever	6	6	-

DIPHTHERIA:- Two cases were notified at Great Glen and one case was notified at Halstead.

SCARLET FEVER:- Three cases at Frisby, two at Stretton Hall Institute and one at Humberstone.

No cases of OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM came under observation.

The TUBERCULOSIS RECORD for the year is as follows:-

Age-Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Other forms.		Respiratory.		Other forms.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
10 and under 15 years	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15 " " 20 "	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
25 " " 35 "	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
35 " " 45 "	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 years and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Totals:-	1	-	-	2	2	1	1	-

One of the fatal cases occurred at the Mental Hospital and one in Leicester.

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, nor was any action called for under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

The following examinations were made at the County Council's Laboratory:-

Sputa for Tuberculosis	16
Urine for Tuberculosis	1
Swabs for Diphtheria	19
Urine (General and Bacteriological)	1
Milk examinations (Bacteriological)	202
Sewage and water analyses	32
Miscellaneous	2
Total:-	273

Factories, Workshops & Workplaces:-

1. Inspections:-

Factories (including Factory-Laundries)	No. of inspections	1
	No. of written notices	-
Workshops (including Workshop-Laundries)	No. of inspections	22
	No. of written notices	1
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises)	No. of inspections	1
	No. of written notices	-
Totals:-	Inspections	24
	Written notices	1

2. Defects found:-

Want of ventilation:-	Found	1
	Remedied	1

3. Outwork in unwholesome premises:- Nil.

It was not found necessary to refer any matters to H.M. Inspector of Factories.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. E. O'CONNOR, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Kirby Muxloe,

Leicester.

8th June, 1938.